

INCIDENT REPORT

M/Y DREAM KEEPER

On or about 3:20 a.m. on 30 APR 23, PO2 Pamilaran PN received a call from M/Y Discovery Palawan through marine band radio informing the station that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress at the vicinity of the waters off Tubbataha or at coordinates Lat 08° 51.236 N Long 120° 01.58 E. Accordingly, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4nm away from M/Y Dream Keeper, proceeded to the location of M/Y Dream Keeper at 3:30 a.m. M/Y Discovery Palawan was in the area at 4:15, (08°52.731" N, 120°01.451" E) found out that M/Y Dream Keeper had already sunk, and immediately started search and rescue operations. They found the passengers all wearing life vests and one rubber boat of the M/Y Dream Keeper with some of the survivors. They allegedly successfully rescued (15) fifteen crew members, eleven (11) guests, and two (2) divemasters, namely:

1. Boat Captain Eron James R De Villa, 39 years old
2. Chief Mate Officer Rhennor A Santos, 48 years old
3. 2ND Chief Mate Officer Ernie R Rovira, 37 years old
4. Chief Engineer Abel A Dela Torre, 43 years old
5. 2ND Chief Engineer Fabian C Guiritan, 56 years old
6. Able Seaman James Ray Besana, 39 years old
7. Able Seaman Bong Bong R Catillo, 43 years old
8. Able Seaman Erecmel E Magbanua, 30 years old
9. Oiler Regie B Antonio, 35 years old
10. Coms. Man Ponciano M Atienza, 55 years old
11. Chef Jimmy F Ballesteros, 27 years old
12. Assistant Cook Warren T Fabito, 39 years old
13. Steward Ma Cecilla F Lugatiman, 30 years old
14. Steward Mary Ann S Muaña, 33 years old
15. Steward James Labasano, 23 years old
16. Passengers Ying Zhu, 24 years old
17. Xianhe Lin, 40 years old
18. Bo Gao, 33 years old
19. Keissha April Cunanan, 28 years old
20. Syvert Llyod Tan, 34 years old
21. Patrick Rene Varon, 50 years old
22. Philip Johnnn Talo, 34 years old
23. Ivonne Herrero, 41 years old
24. Danilo Jamiito Jr., 34 years old
25. Judelyn Picardal, 50 years old
26. Ricky Juezan, 30 years old
27. Divemaster Chrisper Maranan, 30 years old
28. Divemaster Zhaoxi Li, 40 years old

By 4:50 a.m., all 28 people were rescued but the search for four (4) other passengers continued.

1. Boat Owner Denke 'Jackie' Yang, 36 years old
2. Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador, 36 years old
3. Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador, 36 years old
4. Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc, 32 years old

At 6:46 a.m., the team of Tubbataha marine park rangers composed of PCG, TMO, and LGU personnel proceeded to the incident area north of the North Atoll onboard the patrol boat to conduct search and rescue operations (SAR). Aside from Discovery Palawan, where the survivors were boarded, the other dive boats in the area assisted in SARS operations. These are namely: Almaroon Intrepid, Solitude-I, Palau Sports, M/Y Monsy, Stella Mariz, Philippine Siren, Resolute, Atlantis Azores, Zamerdius, and Navorca.

Debris was found in the general area of the incident, e.g., freezer, pieces of furniture, life raft, fins, etc., but the four missing individuals were not found.

At 2:00 p.m., 30 April 2023, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) arrived at Tubbataha at coordinates 08' 51.35"N 120' 01.59"E. By 3:30 p.m., MRRV-9702 coordinated the transfer of the 28 survivors from Discovery Palawan to their vessel. With the survivors on board, MRRV-9702 continued to conduct SAR operations. At 6:00 a.m., 1 May 2023, MRRV-9702 conducted SAR at South Atoll and sailed back to Puerto Princesa with the survivors at 7:30 a.m. and is expected to arrive Puerto Princesa at 5 p.m. today.

PN and PCG marine park rangers continuously sent dispatches to their mother units providing updates and seeking instructions. TMO coordinated with the boat manager of M/Y Dream Keeper regarding further SAR operations. A request was sent to the Western Command for airborne SAR operations. At around 6:00 p.m., a US-P8 aircraft conducted airborne SAR for more than 3 hours.

A US aircraft, P8-436, was sighted at around 8:00 a.m., 1 May 2023 conducting SAR around Tubbataha.

